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A
VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT
A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE MEMBERS
OF THE
British Archaeological Association,

HELD AT THE
THEATRE OF THE WESTERN LITERARY INSTITUTION,
5TH MARCH, 1845.

T. J. PETTIGREW, ESQ., F.R.S., F.S.A., IN THE CHAIR.

(TAKEN IN SHORT-HAND BY T. E. JONES.)



LONDON:
JOHN RUSSELL SMITH,
4, OLD COMPTON STREET, SOHO SQUARE.

MDCCCXLV.



C. AND J. ADLARD, PRINTERS, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

STATEMENT.

MR. RUSSELL SMITH has requested me to furnish him with a statement introductory to the Report of the proceedings at the Special General Meeting, held on the 5th of March. At that meeting I abstained altogether from speaking, because I could not have spoken without alluding to matters of personal feeling, which I, as much as any one, wished to avoid introducing in proceedings where calmness and regularity were so much to be desired. Since that, a circular has been issued containing statements so disingenuous and garbled, that I am not sorry to have an opportunity of saying something in my own defence, in addition to the very fair, I may say indulgent, statement made by Mr. Pettigrew in his address to the members assembled at the General Meeting.

It is not without reluctance that I even attempt to defend myself in a question so paltry and frivolous, as that relating to the ‘*Archæological Journal*’ and the ‘*Archæological Album*.’ It is a matter of astonishment to me that it should ever have been made a subject of discussion in a society of gentlemen; and I cannot therefore believe that it is the “only point at issue.” As it has been stated by Mr. Pettigrew and by Mr. Way, I edited the *Journal of the Association* during its first year,—that is, I performed the drudgery of an editor without having the credit of being the editor, (for it was not known even to all the members of the Central Committee,) and without any remuneration. I undertook this work, certainly most disinterestedly, because it appeared the only means of ensuring method and

(intended to be a popular and amusing book, which might have a place on the drawing-room table,) I said to Mr. Fairholt, "You would have a perfect right to put after your name *Honorary Draughtsman to the Central Committee, &c.*, and I might take that of *Member of the Central Committee*, but we will not do so, because I wish nobody to think that *our* book is in any degree the book of the Association." Mr. Fairholt was entirely of the same opinion. When, subsequently, he informed me that the publishers wished to issue the volume of the 'Album' in six parts, my first observation was, "I hope they do not intend to make a journal of it, because to that I cannot agree." On meeting the publishers I found that they had no wish to alter the character of the book, and that their reasons for issuing it in parts were such as I could not disapprove. The publishers sent their prospectus round to the members of the Association, which was extremely natural for them to do; if it had been a scientific work, they would probably have made the same use of the list of members of the Royal Society. The consequence was that some members of the Association wrote to members of the Committee, who happened to be their friends, to inquire if the 'Album' were directly authorised by the Committee, a question to which the prospectus itself was a sufficient answer. However, my name being so much connected with the labours of the Association, it was a natural question to ask. I had letters to this effect myself; and some of the writers, not suspecting there could be any harm in such a thing, added, that if it were not authorised by the Association, it ought to be so authorised.

Mr. Pettigrew's statement gives the outline of the subsequent proceedings. My impression is, that they were characterized by hostility to the 'Album' more than by apprehension for the 'Journal.' When, after the subject had been twice turned out of the Central Committee, the three members of the Sub-Committee determined to issue a circular against the 'Album,' I was requested to withdraw my name from the title of my own book. The grounds on which Mr. Smith and myself protested, and

withdrew from the Committee, were, that we had no power of issuing such a circular, that we were compromising the principles of the Association, and that we were insulting the Central Committee, on which we were dependent, by doing what it had virtually decided should not be done. It appeared to us that under such circumstances, with such a protest, all "precedents" would have led us to lay the matter before a meeting of the Central Committee for decision; but the only answer we could obtain was, "We are three to two, and will do as we like:" and the circular was issued in spite of the protest. I think it right to state that I learnt from what had passed in the sub-committee before my arrival, and from what was said in my presence, that the original intention had been to issue a circular, stating in so many words, that the 'Archæological Album' was a publication not authorized by the Association, which no one could for a moment have taken for anything else than an official recommendation from the 'Central Committee' to each member of the Association not to buy it. The aim and tendency of our Institution is to unite together in one body all who have any taste for antiquities; and it would truly be a monstrous thing, if such a powerful instrument were used to proscribe particular antiquarian publications which might give umbrage to two or three individuals.

So much for my mere personal concern in these unhappy dissensions. The object of Mr. Smith and myself in resigning our places in the Sub-Committee was simply to exonerate ourselves from the blame which we felt that the Sub-Committee was incurring. I supposed that Mr. Way, who had now taken the lead in this incipient opposition, would have come candidly, as we wished to do, before the superior body to abide by its decision as to which party was right; and we did all that we could to invite him to act in a spirit of conciliation. The Central Committee then consisted of two parts: first, of those who had zealously attended its meetings, and had hitherto transacted its business; and secondly, of an equal, if not a greater number, who had remained members of the Committee, although they never acted cordially

with us, and scarcely ever attended our meetings. Mr. Way, instead of discussing the matter amicably with his colleagues, employed the time between the meeting of the Sub-Committee and the regular meeting of the Central Committee in canvassing the members belonging to the second of these classes, and in organizing a party against us, so that we had a much larger meeting than had ever been seen before. Our President, Lord Albert Conyngham, hearing that there was likely to be some discussion in the Central Committee, came to town on purpose to preside, and by his kind and considerate exertions the dispute was believed to have been brought to a friendly settlement, and it was clearly understood that it was never more to be alluded to. One of the conditions was, that Mr. Smith and myself should return to the Sub-Committee. I agreed to this, simply with the wish of preserving peace ; for several reasons, into which it is unnecessary here to enter, had led me to wish to withdraw altogether from the management of the Journal ; and on leaving the committee room I stated to one of my colleagues my intention of remaining at my post till the completion of another number, and then quietly retiring from it.

We now supposed that the business of the Association was to be carried on at our next meeting in the same friendly manner as formerly. But no sooner had Lord Albert Conyngham turned his back, than the same system of canvassing votes was continued ; and our surprise was not small to see at the following meeting a greater number of new faces than before. A systematic opposition to the gentlemen who had hitherto conducted the affairs of the Association was exhibited on more points than one ; and I personally was made the object of a very rude attack, quite unprovoked, and, I think, unmerited. A very uncourteously-worded motion, expelling me from the Editing Sub-Committee, was moved by Mr. Hawkins, and seconded by Mr. Barnwell. My first feeling was to endeavour to secure the peace of the Association, by giving way ; and I can safely say, that during the whole discussion, under whatever provocation, I did not allow one word of personal feeling to drop from my mouth.

But I saw that the only result of my standing aside to avoid the blow was, that it fell on the head of one of my friends and colleagues. I then felt it my duty to stand my ground as long as I could. There was now no longer any room for doubt that a party had been organized to take the direction of the Society out of our hands. Mr. Hawkins's resolution was carried by, nominally, a majority of 10 against 6. Mr. Pettigrew has stated that he did not vote, being in the chair; but he has forgotten, and the writer of the circular has not thought it necessary to recollect, that I also was present, and did not vote (from the feeling that I was personally concerned in it); so that, after all, this large majority of which they boast was only 10 against 8.

The next person singled out for attack appears to have been Mr. Pettigrew. It is perhaps not generally known among the members of the Association that, in addition to many other good services for which we are indebted to our Treasurer, he has kindly given us a room in his own house, during the first year of our existence, as our place of meeting, the amount of our funds until lately not being sufficient to enable us to pay the rent of apartments for that purpose. It would have been too bold to attack Mr. Pettigrew in his own house; it was determined to seek a room elsewhere, and this was done without even the courtesy of communicating on the subject with Mr. Pettigrew himself. We learnt accidentally that an application had been made *in the name of the Central Committee* to the Council of the Art-Union for the use of a room. It appears that this was at first assented to, but some difficulties afterwards arising, a room was obtained at the Institute of Civil Engineers, by the means of Mr. Manby, and there the fraction of the old defunct Committee have since held their meetings.

They were, however, interrupted by a new incident. When Lord Albert Conyngham heard of the renewal of the movement which he had exerted himself to put at rest, he wrote to the Secretary, directing him to call a special meeting, but he was hindered by unexpected illness from attending, and that special meeting was postponed; but at the next ordinary meeting a

letter from the President was read, expressing his dissatisfaction that the subject should have been again brought up, and intimating an intention of resigning. It was then moved by Mr. King, and seconded, I think, by Mr. Barham, that the resolution of the previous meeting should be erased from the minute book, Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Barnwell having refused their consent. Sir Richard Westmacott then addressed me across the table, and suggested, that if I would voluntarily resign from the Sub-Committee, it would be a means of avoiding the collision which was likely to ensue. I acquiesced without any hesitation, and Sir Richard walked round the table to me and told me, that he thought I had, under circumstances, "behaved very handsomely." Nevertheless, the mover and seconder of the original resolution now carried another, stating, that my resignation was a condition upon which the old resolution was to be erased, which was of course not less offensive than the resolution itself. The first resolution could only throw discredit on those who had voted to be true what they themselves must have felt was not true; but the other implied that I had acquiesced in their decision, and had consented to a transaction to which I could not honorably have been a party. I was going to speak against this, when some of my own friends said, that it was no use opposing it, as the majority were determined to act in their own way, and I desisted. In fact, it was now quite clear that the Committee was divided into two parties, one of which must give way to the other. The majority, kept together by dint of canvassing, would hardly condescend to answer our arguments or expostulations in any other way than by holding up their hands.

On learning what had taken place, and receiving a copy of the resolution, Lord Albert Conyngham sent in his resignation as President, and another special meeting of the Committee was called. It was, however, well known that it was the intention of these gentlemen to accept the President's resignation, in whatever terms it was couched. Mr. Way had stated that the business of the special meeting would be to consider

of the choice of another President. When we met, Mr. Pettigrew represented to them how much we were indebted to Lord Albert Conyngham—that he was our first President, and had come forward when we were few in numbers and our success was doubtful—and that he had been an attentive and zealous leader and fellow-labourer in our upward struggle. He suggested measures which, in his opinion, would lead to our President's return, and urged that they should be adopted. The only answer given was evidently a prearranged one—"We will not be dictated to!" Mr. Pettigrew then drew out a written resolution, accepting the resignation of the President with expressions of regret, and of thankfulness for his services, and ending with the hope that his Lordship would still reconsider his determination. The gentlemen on the other side immediately moved and carried an amendment, accepting the resignation, but omitting the part which contained the hope that the President would reconsider his determination. This was their "regret" and "grateful acknowledgments."

We felt that, under these circumstances, it was useless for us to remain on the Committee with such opponents. But we felt also that we had incurred a considerable degree of responsibility towards the body of the Association, and I doubt very much if we should have done our duty in surrendering its money and papers into the hands of men who by their conduct during the first year had not shown great anxiety for its prosperity. It seemed the more honorable course to place ourselves in the hands of the body at large. It is evident that a factious majority (for it was a factious majority) of 12 or 13 persons ought not to be allowed to dictate to a large Association, without any responsibility to the Association itself. There were other reasons which made a general meeting desirable, for we had felt a growing necessity to remodel the constitution of the Association, which had gone through many transformations, without a proportionate modification in its system.

When Mr. Smith and myself first laid the foundation of this Institution, we contemplated no more than a small Committee

or Club of our more zealous antiquarian friends, for the purpose of advising and assisting, as far as we could, the numerous provincial inquirers who were working apart and unobserved for want of some central point of union; these were to be appointed correspondents; and, as we thought of meeting quietly at each other's residence without expense, we asked for no subscription, but we looked forward to having a sufficient number of correspondents to support a Journal, which was to be our chief means of communication. As we intended to have no members in London, except the small number of members of our Committee, we were necessarily to be self-elected. Our number of correspondents increased much more rapidly than we expected, and as some people offered money, and there was a prospect that we should be joined by persons of higher influence, it was proposed to have another class who were called *Patrons*. Our idea now was that of being a large body of individuals associated together for the purpose of advancing certain objects each in the best way in his power,—some by labouring and writing, others by contributing money, and others by their power and influence. Although we were still a self-elected Central Committee, our duties towards the general body had become much more complicated by receiving subscriptions. We now also began to elect correspondents and patrons in the metropolis. Things went on thus until we found the distinction of these two classes so extremely inconvenient, that we were obliged to unite them all under the one general name of members of the Association. Our situation was now still more complicated; for, under the new name of member, each had a right to have some personal interest in and influence over the management of affairs. Since the Canterbury meeting, we have individually reflected on this state of things, and consulted upon it, and we saw more and more the necessity of calling a general meeting, passing a regular code of laws, and fixing an annual meeting at which the Central Committee for the following year should be elected by the members of the Associ-

ation. It is obvious that this could not be done with propriety at the annual congress, because that is only a meeting subordinate to the Association itself; it is not always held in one central point, tickets are sold to persons not members of the Association, and a considerable portion of the visitors are ladies. A general meeting, for the purpose to which I allude, must be held in London, and no month could be much better than that of March, when so many country members are in town.

As soon as our dissensions were publicly known, requisitions to call a general meeting crowded in to the Treasurer, who, of course, then held the place left vacant by the resignation of the President; and Mr. Pettigrew, perfectly aware that, if we met in Committee, the majority would take measures effectually to hinder a general meeting, postponed the ordinary meetings of Committee until after that general meeting had taken place; and the general meeting was accordingly announced, in the most public and effectual way, by advertising in the daily papers. Our only wish was to state our causes of dissension to the body of the Association, to resign everything into their hands, and to abide by their decision. But the gentlemen who had obtained the majority in the Committee in the manner stated above, proud in their strength, were determined to keep it. Mr. Way, as Honorary Secretary, took upon himself to contradict the notice of the postponement of the meeting of the Committee, an act of insubordination to his superior officer for which he can hardly have found a "precedent." Thirteen members of the Committee met, according to Mr. Way's summons, and issued a notice stating that the general meeting was irregular, and that they would consider its proceedings as "null and void." Thus thirteen members of a Committee of twenty-two determined to set at defiance the whole Archæological Association;—which I certainly think is an act entirely "unprecedented." I refer to Mr. Pettigrew's address for a full justification of the mode in which this meeting was called; for myself, I could hardly be convinced that the protest of the thirteen gentlemen was intended for anything more than a rather good joke.

On the evening appointed, the 5th of March, in spite of the great inclemency of the weather, about a hundred and fifty persons assembled, including a great number of those who had contributed their money and their active assistance to the Association, and some who had come up from distant parts of the country. There was no room for mistaking the unanimity of the feeling expressed at this meeting. The proceedings were characterized by a tone of conciliating moderation which it would have been well if the opposite party had imitated. It was never our wish to turn them all out of the Committee—in fact, we had determined to retain several on any terms; but it was impossible that any meeting could elect gentlemen who had put their names to a printed paper refusing to be elected by it. By this unwise step they had put it out of our power to be conciliatory in this respect.

I will only add, that the late members of the Central Committee still continue their meetings, and lay claim to be the Central Committee, and have announced a Journal as the continuation of that published under the direction of the Central Committee during the past year. They have also taken various steps to thwart us in our proceedings, which fortunately have not met with much success. Sir Henry Ellis has retired from both parties, on the ostensible plea of a wish to keep neutrality; and Mr. King has gone over to the others, on the ground of not agreeing in the necessity of a general meeting. But, on the other hand, the larger part of the Association acquiesce in the general meeting, and the adhesion of a considerable number of associates, as well as correspondents, has shown that we have nothing to fear. The 'Journal' will be ready for delivery in the course of the month of April, and I have no doubt that it will then be easily seen which is really the Journal of the British Archæological Association.

THOMAS WRIGHT.

LONDON; *March 19th*, 1845.

REPORT
OF THE
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION,
MARCH 5th, 1845.

T. J. PETTIGREW, Esq., F.R.S. F.S.A., IN THE CHAIR.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, I have felt it my duty to call you together, as members of the British Archæological Association. in consequence of a requisition, or rather, I should say, requisitions, which I have received from various parts of the country, as well as under the signatures of individuals from the metropolis, in connexion with the state of things, and the posture of affairs, which that Association at the present moment presents to you: and I shall commence the business of this evening by reading to you the requisitions that have been forwarded, together with the names of the individuals by whom they have been so signed.

(The Chairman read the requisitions accordingly.)

These signatures have been transmitted to me, but, independently of that, I have received a variety of letters from many members in various parts of the country, expressing their regret that the distance, and their occupations, have prevented their attending on the present occasion; on which they express an anxiety to have been present. But there is one letter in particular, which I feel it my duty to read to you; which I re-

ceived this morning from the Very Reverend Dr. Merewether, the Dean of Hereford.—

“The Deanery, Hereford, 4th March 1845.

“My Dear Sir,—I have been extremely concerned to learn that circumstances have led to a discordant feeling in the counsels of the British Archæological Association, the results of which are calculated to produce so much impediment to the attainment of those ends which I, with many others, have looked forward to with so much confidence and delight. Had not professional duty demanded my attention in another direction, and in a case of much importance, I should not have failed to attend the Special General Meeting to-morrow evening, for the purpose of lending my humble but anxious endeavours to cooperate with others in restoring tranquillity and reorganising our valuable staff. I have too vivid a recollection of the happy week we spent together at Canterbury, and too full a conviction of the great good which the Association is calculated to work,—nay, has worked, to think that any who have taken umbrage at what may have been unintentionally offensive, as well as those who have so transgressed, will hesitate to offer up ready concessions at the altar of our common weal. I shall anxiously look forward to the report of your proceedings, in which, under other circumstances, I would assuredly have taken a part. It has been often a wish of mine that I could have been at the Committee, during my frequent sojourns in London, had the rules permitted it; and by and bye, should it be practicable, I could work more regularly, when, after next month, the railway being opened to Gloucester, I shall be brought within easier reach.

“I remain, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

“JOHN MEREWETHER.”

Now I will not occupy you further by reading other letters of apology, but simply announce to you, that having received these requisitions in so short a time, signed by 162 members of this Association,—gentlemen whose names must be familiar to you, if not their persons,—they are familiar to you by the works which they have put before the public; their names must be familiar to all who have taken part in the affairs of this Association, for they embrace the chief of those who have subscribed to the funds, and also of those who have contributed papers to our meetings;—I say, gentlemen, I will not occupy your time further upon this subject than to show to you that I could not but feel it my duty immediately to obey the requisitions presented to me; particularly from the position in which the Society was placed. I should not lay a stress upon my duty in calling this meeting, but from a circumstance that has since

transpired,—I allude to a paper which reached me only late last evening, in which the power of calling a meeting of this kind is denied, and in which certain circumstances are stated which it is necessary for me, as briefly as possible, to draw your attention to.

The ground upon which I have ventured to assume to myself this power of obeying the requisitions, presented to me by so many members, has arisen from the dissensions that have existed in the Committee, and from the equality of numbers in which those dissensions originated; and one other point on which I hold my responsibility to be particularly great towards you, is the having received from so many individuals subscriptions for carrying on the purposes of this Institution. I have, therefore, not simply as, unfortunately, the senior officer of this Institution, after the resignation of the President, but also as your Treasurer, and therefore bound as a faithful steward to render you a faithful account; I have on these grounds felt it my duty to do this. It is not on a light matter that I would have ventured on a step, giving a publicity that, to a certain degree, may, under particular circumstances, even jeopardize the Institution; but when I tell you that the Committee are divided literally half and half, or nearly so,—for it is ten to twelve—and that all these dissensions have been of a character that have led to the resignation of our President, not merely as the head of the Committee but also as a member of the Society: and that this was the first President of the Society, who indeed entered warmly into its interests on all occasions, from the commencement; who watched over every proceeding, and was acquainted with every resolution that took place; who sacrificed his personal comforts to us at Canterbury, and overcame those strong feelings resulting from domestic affliction, to perform the duties attached to his office; I felt that I should have been wanting in respect to that noble individual, as well as wanting in my duty to you as your Treasurer, if I had not taken the step which I have done. (*Great applause.*) It is gratifying to me to hear you respond in this manner to my feelings, because it will save me trespassing upon you more at length than I have done.

With regard to the paper which I hold in my hand, it pro-

fesses to be a circular emanating from a "Special Meeting of the Central Committee, held on the 28th of February, 1845;" and it is signed by thirteen gentlemen, all of whom are my friends; many of them my most particular and intimate friends. This paper alludes to advertisements having appeared in the public papers from me, as Treasurer, convening a Special General Meeting, and after that it states, that "no such meeting has been appointed or authorized by the Central Committee, and no authority to that effect has been delegated to the Treasurer, or any other officer of the Archæological Association. Any proceeding of such a Special General Meeting will therefore be null and invalid." And it goes on to state that, "The Central Committee cannot refrain from expressing their surprise that any member of their body should attempt to call a General Meeting of the Association without any communication with them. They cannot recognize the validity or propriety of such a proceeding."

Now with regard to calling Special General Meetings, most Societies are provided with regulations for calling such meetings, under which they feel themselves bound to act under particular circumstances. But it so occurs, from the constitution of this Committee, and the manner in which this Society has been established, that there are no laws at all relating to this subject; that the regulations have only been made as circumstances called for them in the course of the labours of the Committee; and that, no Special General Meetings being anticipated, no measures were in existence to meet such an emergency. This being the case, and there being no rules to follow in regard to calling extraordinary General Meetings, one looks to the custom of other Societies; and the custom of other Societies, invariably, even where laws exist, is to provide a power on the part of the President to call extraordinary meetings; which are called indeed by the senior Officer of the Institution, on a requisition by a certain number of the subscribers.

This paper goes on to state, that "it is quite unprecedented that any member of a very small minority of a Committee, should appeal to the general body, against the repeated and clearly expressed opinion of a large majority." Why, this appeal is not made by *me*—it is made by 162 members of this

Association. (*Cheers.*) It is not my appeal, it is the appeal of a large body of the members, addressed to the officer, who, from circumstances, chances to be the senior officer of the establishment at the time. Then, with respect to this “repeated and clearly expressed opinion of a large majority,” that I feel requires a little explanation, because it is admitted that “the only ostensible point in dispute is the expression of an opinion by a large majority of the Committee, that the Editorship of the ‘Archæological Journal’ and the ‘Archæological Album’ by the same party was incompatible.”

Now there have been four meetings at which this subject has been discussed, and this “clearly expressed opinion by a large majority,” turns out, on reference to the minutes on two of these occasions, thus:—In the first place, the subject was not at all entertained; in the next place, after the resolution had been moved and seconded it was withdrawn, the mover and seconder seeing that the sense of the meeting was against it. And on the third occasion, the numbers were ten to six, or rather ten to seven, for it chanced to be that I was in the Chair, and expressed my opinion, but it did not come to a casting vote; and the “large majority” consisted of three out of seventeen: and at the other meeting, when it was discussed, a compromise which was made, for the resignation of the gentleman who was the editor of the ‘Album,’ was carried. Therefore, you see, this statement is not correct at all with regard to the “clearly expressed opinion of a large majority.” And another point, and the only one which I shall remark on this subject, before I proceed to the business of the Meeting, is, that this paper states, that “the minority of the Committee who voted on this question never exceeded one fourth of the members of the Committee, nor one third of the members present.” Now, Gentlemen, the largest number that ever voted on the question of the editorship of the ‘Album’ and the ‘Journal,’ by the same party, was ten. Ten certainly is not a majority of twenty-two, of which the Committee consisted; nor is the seven put to it to be considered as not exceeding one third of the members present. I mention this because of the gross misrepresentations in this circular. The minute-book of the Society, and the resolutions moved, are all preserved, and the number of votes is marked by

the Chairman at the time they were taken. However, I will not detain you longer with respect to the legality of this Meeting, because we know very well as a fact, that societies which are devoid of a charter, are assemblages of gentlemen who make their own regulations, and feel in honour bound by them; a tie, I trust, far more binding than any legal instrument that may be executed. (*Cheers.*)

Now, having disposed of that, it is necessary that I should just give you a little sketch of the history of this Association. This Association took its rise from conversations which took place between Mr. Wright and Mr. Smith. These gentlemen consulted a third upon the subject, and a meeting was held at Mr. Wright's residence, at which it was determined to institute a central board, for the purpose of collecting correspondence from all parts of the country, for the illustration and preservation of our national monuments. The third individual selected for consultation was Dr. Bromet. These agreed to invite Mr. Albert Way, of whose talents and great antiquarian knowledge it is unnecessary for me to say one word, or express any surprise that these gentlemen selected so able and distinguished a person to join them in the work they had undertaken. Following Mr. Way. Mr. Winston was invited, afterwards Mr. Stapleton, then myself, then some gentlemen from the British Museum, until at last the number of the Central Committee—which it had been thought in the first instance to be proper to consist of twenty-five,—had reached in fact to twenty-two; the number at the present time. Now, it was intended to collect all the information from correspondents that could be obtained, relating to antiquities and to the number of remains that are daily being thrown up, from the progress of the railways and other sources; and that, as a medium of communication to the public, a journal should be established; and to conduct this journal it was necessary to have a printing or publishing Committee, by which the papers read to the Central Committee should be more minutely taken into consideration, corrected, and amended: as we know all papers of this kind need to be.

This Committee was appointed January 21st, 1844, and it consisted of Mr. Poynter, for Architecture; Mr. Wright, for General Literature; the Rev. Mr. Deane, for Mediæval Antiquities;

and Dr. Bromet, who had undertaken the translation of documents from the French publications: with Mr. Way and Mr. Smith, as the two Secretaries. This Committee therefore consisted of six. Now, no editor was appointed; all these gentlemen were to divide the work, and share it amongst them; and no appointment was made by the Committee of Mr. Wright, or any one else, as editor. Well, the fact is, that the first number was not forthcoming at the time at which it was promised; and we all know very well, that if a journal is to be established and published periodically, a day's loss is, in fact, the ruin of the work. Mr. Way's health was in a very delicate state; he had undertaken the first part, and the first number was not to be obtained till a considerable time after it had been applied for. It was therefore deemed necessary to have some one who could devote time to the subject; and Mr. Wright, from his business habits, knowledge of antiquities, and great facility with his pen, was eminently pointed out as the proper person for the task. He most willingly and voluntarily undertook the performance of the duty, and for one whole twelvemonth performed that duty gratuitously:—never coming to the Central Committee with the idea of payment at any time. (*Cheers.*) The first allusion,—and it is always an unpleasant thing to allude to money matters;—the first allusion in relation to any prospective remuneration for labour, emanated from me, in conversation with Mr. Wright. I felt that, as a literary gentleman, his time was his property; and that we, as a body of individuals, having, from the liberality of our members, funds at command, had no right to take up a portion of his time without offering him some remuneration. (*Cheers.*) And I therefore suggested to Mr. Wright the necessity of doing something in the matter. He was reluctant to enter upon the subject; but, as I pressed it on him, he said it did occupy a great deal of his time, but he was happy to devote as much as he could to the work: and then I suggested that he should communicate with Mr. Parker, the publisher of the 'Archæological Journal' upon the subject: but he evinced considerable delicacy about it. No other communication whatever from the Central Committee has passed with regard to any prospective remuneration connected with the Journal. But this bears in no part upon the question for our consideration this evening.

The arrangement I have mentioned went on exceedingly well, and the Journal was very satisfactorily conducted: the Council meeting regularly every fortnight; other Sub-Committees for business besides; and, in addition to these, occasional special meetings. From the period of its formation, on the 5th of December 1843, up to the December of last year, no body of men could possibly work more harmoniously together: not a word of dissension was uttered; no attempt was made on the part of any individual of the Committee to assume to himself an authority or importance beyond any other member whatever. And I should not do justice to Mr. Wright if I did not say that, at all the meetings of the Committee, his conduct has been marked with a mildness,—I will even say a meekness,—which has astonished me: not to mention his extreme readiness at all times to put himself to any inconvenience; to fill up gaps; to do anything; and indeed, without reluctance, to accommodate himself to the wishes of his colleagues.

Now the first disturbance,—not of our harmony but that which led to it,—was at a meeting, held December 11th: when it was stated that Mr. Wright had entered into an engagement with a bookseller to produce a work on antiquities. The bookseller finding that a taste for antiquities and archæology was increasing, no doubt from the congress at Canterbury, and the various excavations and explorations recently made, was induced to offer to that gentleman the publication of a book, which might be fitted for a place on the drawing-room table, and inspire a taste for the study of antiquities in many who before had not engaged in them. Mr. Wright entered into an engagement with the publisher for this work. It was intended to have been in one volume, as an annual. There was not time, however, for its preparation in that form, and the publisher thought,—and the publishers must be consulted in these cases,—that the outlay would be considerable, and he preferred having it divided into six parts, to be published at intervals of two months each. And these are matters in which publishers will have their way. Mr. Wright never dreamt of making this a vehicle for any of the material transmitted to our Society. This was to consist entirely of essays, written by himself; scraps and sketches; in fact, an Album, as its name implies. Gentlemen, it was not

put forth to represent the 'Archæological Journal' in form, nor to represent it in colour. We have heard of people voting black, white! This would be voting blue, buff: here is octavo; there is quarto:—the printing is different, the title-page different. Mr. Wright's name appears as editor of the one, but even there he does not appear to be connected with the 'British Archæological Journal,' or the Association; he does not appear even as a member of the Committee, which he would have been justified in placing on the work as an authority for its contents. But Mr. Wright does not need that as an authority. It was sufficient to see on the title-page that he was a Master of Arts of one of our universities, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; and that he is one of those very few individuals who, in this country, have received the distinguished honour of being chosen a corresponding member of the Institute of France. (*Cheers.*) So far from considering that this would in any way interfere with the 'Archæological Journal,' or its pursuits, the person to whom this design was first communicated was the publisher of our Journal. It was conceived by Mr. Wright that his work would be a means of encouraging and promoting the journal: and in fact any one who has taken the trouble of reading the Journal and the Album will see at once that the Album is not capable of being misunderstood for any publication of the Association by anybody capable of understanding the English language. Now, gentlemen, on December 11th, Dr. Bromet stated that Mr. Wright had put forth a prospectus of an Archæological Album, which would lead people to make mistakes; and he considered (as the Journal was authorized by our Society) that the other work ought not to appear so; and that it was necessary to notice on the Journal that no publication was authorised but the Journal of the Society. I immediately stated to Dr. Bromet that I conceived we ought not to entertain such a question; that we had no right to interfere with any gentleman's private arrangements; that we really did not live upon our Journal;—that we were not a Society subsisting upon it;—and that, on the contrary, it formed but a very small part of the objects of our institution. And so fully was this view of the subject entertained, that no person besides Dr. Bromet supported the proposition, and it was dropped.

On the 18th of December another member of the Committee,

Mr. Poynter, brought forward the proposition ; it was seconded by Dr. Bromet, and it was to the effect that a declaration should be printed on the cover of the next number of the 'Archæological Journal,' stating that it was the only publication authorized by the Central Committee. Now a discussion on this second occasion of noticing the subject took place for one hour at the meeting, and the feeling was so strongly evinced on the subject that, when it was at an end, I stated, being in the chair, that, not wishing any gentleman to have it recorded on the minutes of the Society that he had proposed a motion which met with a negative,—so great was the harmony which had before existed,—I put it to the mover and seconder whether, seeing the feeling of the meeting was against it, they would not prefer withdrawing the resolution. Mr. Poynter saw the feeling was against it, and withdrew it ; and as Dr. Bromet withdrew it also, I considered there was an end of the business. And now comes the most remarkable feature in connexion with this subject. This was on the 18th of December. On the 28th a meeting was held of the Printing Committee, and at this meeting five out of the six members were present, Mr. Deane only being absent. At this meeting, to the great astonishment of Mr. Smith and Mr. Wright, who were present, this subject was brought up in the Printing Committee. Mr. Way had returned, I believe, from Paris, and Mr. Way taking up the subject very warmly, three of the five gentlemen present agreed to entertain the matter ; and not merely to entertain it, but to carry this wish into effect. It was immediately stated by Mr. Smith and Mr. Wright that they could not enter upon such a measure ; that it had been before the Committee and was withdrawn ; and that in defiance of the Committee's decision (if we take the withdrawal of the motion to amount to that), it would not do to re-open the question ; that in fact they could not work on the Committee if they did so. The answer was : we are 3 to 2 ; therefore we have a majority, and shall do it. Mr. Smith and Mr. Wright immediately tendered their resignations ; and thus the two gentlemen who founded the Society were the first to withdraw from its bosom. Gentlemen, this circular which I hold in my hand was sent down to Oxford to be printed, and I received it by the

General Post, bearing the date of the 28th of December, and to my great astonishment, having been a very regular attendant at the Central Committee, and having given up my house to its meetings (*Cheers*)—having only been absent on one occasion, and knowing all that had passed at the Central Committee, I was very much astonished to receive this notice, which began:—

“British Archæological Association.

“The Central Committee, in announcing the completion of the first volume of the ‘Archæological Journal,’ beg to remind the members of the Association that it is highly desirable, in order to give full effect to the exertions of the Committee, that every member should regularly be made acquainted with the proceedings, and that the circulation of the Journal should be rendered as extensive as possible. It is hoped, therefore, that the members will not fail to order it, through their respective booksellers, and that they will lose no opportunity of making it generally known, as the only publication issued under the authority of the Central Committee.”

And then, following up that by asking for subscriptions to be transmitted to the Treasurer. Now anybody who is accustomed to the management of societies will know at once that it is entirely subversive of all government, that any body of five in number, or rather three in number,—that those three gentlemen, two of whom were the mover and seconder of the resolution at the Central Committee, so that it was not done in ignorance,—should, in defiance of the expressed opinion of the Committee, have come to such a decision, and then put it forth in the name of that Central Committee. (*Cheers*.) Now, it is easily to be supposed that I could not, and ought not, as Treasurer of the Society, allow this notice to be issued without bringing it before the next meeting of the Committee. The next meeting was on the 8th of January. At this meeting it was known that the subject would be brought forward; for this notice was exceedingly offensive, and it produced very bad impressions. Many gentlemen immediately said: the ‘Archæological Journal’ does not answer. Letters were written upon the subject, and many very considerable persons mentioned this to the Committee. It was thought improper that the Society should be obliged to beg for their Journal to be taken in, and the subscribers entreated to recommend it to their friends. Feeling that, we had an unaccountably large

meeting of the Committee. Ordinarily the meetings of the Committee were from five or six to ten members, who were very zealous and regular in their attendance, principally consisting of the same individuals, conducting the business of the Society in an amicable manner. But all of a sudden nineteen members of the Committee were present, and since this day we have never held a meeting of the Central Committee with a less number than nineteen. Now this manifested an extraordinary degree of interest in the affairs of the Association. Many of these were men, pursuing this matter of the Album and the Journal, who had never attended the Committee before. The faces of gentlemen who had not attended for twelve months before were suddenly seen amongst us; the hour of meeting became convenient to them, or they were blessed with more leisure, or they felt a deeper interest in the proceedings; so that, instead of meeting as we had done to the number of ten, we went up to nineteen, twenty, and twenty-one members. Now you all know that so great a number does not at all tend to harmony, or even to a proper performance of the duties of a Committee. It unfortunately produced with us a great deal of irregularity. At this meeting of the 8th of January I believe I moved a resolution for the sake of bringing the subject fairly before the Committee. I conceived that the sub-committee had done that which they had no authority to do, and that they had exceeded their powers. It was pleaded in excuse that the former notice relating to the Journal had gone out in the name of the Central Committee; but that was no excuse for acting in defiance of the Central Committee. That notice (which was uncontradicted) was the first notice sent out by the sub-committee; and was authorized by the Central Committee, who instructed those gentlemen to do everything in relation to the Journal; and it was merely a notice to make known when the Journal came out: therefore it was vastly different to putting out a notice in which the feelings of the founder were so deeply concerned. Now to show you that we were anxious for peace, I suggested to Lord Albert Conyngham, who was present, and who came to town on purpose to attend, in order to take away the cover of an excuse, and rather than have a disagreement going on in the body, to use his influence indi-

vidually with Mr. Smith and Mr. Wright to induce those gentlemen to withdraw their resignations. They conceded to his wish, and withdrew their resignations; and his Lordship went away gratified that he had been a peacc-maker, and considered the business at an end; and I believe it was thought so generally after such a concession had been made; but unfortunately it was not thought so by these gentlemen: for at the next meeting of the Committee, January 22d, there were twenty members present, and after the ordinary business of the Association had been disposed of, Mr. Hawkins brought out of his pocket a resolution ready prepared, which I will trouble the Secretary to read.

(Mr. SMITH then read the resolution as follows:—

“ That Mr. Wright having, while acting editor of the ‘ Archæological Journal,’ become the editor also of a rival work, similar in character, and which has been prejudicial to the main objects of the Association in that publication, the Committee are of opinion that Mr. Wright should resign his place on the Editing Sub-Committee.”

Now this resolution was carried; the number of votes were 10 and 6. I should have been the seventh, but being in the chair I did not vote. Gentlemen, I think I have shown you that the terms of that resolution are not borne out; that the Album cannot be called a rival publication; the one consisting of Mr. Wright’s own individual essays, the other of the contributions of the members of the Association in all parts of the country; and that they were not similar in form: and as to any proof of its having injured the circulation of the Journal, it does not appear at all that the number sold is diminished. However, that really is not the consideration. The Association is not one for making money by the Journal—that is the last object in view; but here is a distinct allegation that it is a rival and similar publication; and upon that allegation this gentleman, after having given his resignation and been induced to withdraw it, was again called upon to resign, the numbers being 10 to 6. Sixteen out of the twenty present voted, and in that way was this gentleman told he was not fit, and ought not to remain on the Committee. When the President heard of this, he wrote to me on the subject. He had intended to be present at this meeting, but before the day arrived he sustained a violent attack of ophthalmia, and he

dictated a letter to me expressing his opinion on the subject. At the next meeting, on the 12th of February, I suggested, at the commencement of the business, that the gentlemen probably would have considered the effect of the motion that had been made at the last meeting, and that it was impossible, consistently with feelings of friendship and amity, to allow it to remain on the minutes; and therefore that they would probably, in order to preserve peace, consent to withdraw that entry. However, Mr. Hawkins stated that the lapse of three weeks had only convinced him more of the necessity of that motion. Mr. Barnwell, the seconder, agreed with Mr. Hawkins on the subject; consequently a motion was made by me to expunge the offensive minute. Sir Richard Westmacott then made personal appeal to Mr. Wright, suggesting that, as he was the source of the disagreement, whether he would not withdraw himself from the Committee, and allow them to proceed.

Strange as this should appear, Mr. Wright's desire for peace was so great that he stated he had no personal feeling on the subject; that he would very willingly withdraw, as he could hardly afford to devote the necessary time to the Journal. I said, "then of course that minute will be expunged." Gentlemen, it was expunged; but in what way? Why, by a resolution declaring that Mr. Wright, having signified his intention to resign his seat on the Printing Committee, the minute should be expunged. This was as offensive as the original minute; nor did it take away the sting which had been inflicted. Far otherwise; it has led to the feeling we have since seen displayed. At this meeting I read to the Committee the letter dictated by Lord Albert Conyngham, and sent up to me, in which his Lordship stated that, at the previous meeting, he had considered the matter at an end, and expressed his dissatisfaction at the proceedings. He lamented the dissensions that had arisen, and considered it would be a great injustice to Mr. Wright if they were persevered in; and that he could not by any possibility lend himself to such proceedings. This had no effect, and the consequence was, that at the next meeting on the 19th of February, which I convened specially,—there was no objection to my doing so then—the President's letter of resignation was read.

(Mr. SMITH here read the letter referred to.)

“ 90, Pall Mall, 17 Feb. 1845.

“ Dear Mr. Smith,—It is with great regret I write to you as Secretary of the British Archæological Association, requesting you to give in to the members of the Committee my resignation as one of their body; and also that I request you to erase my name from among the members of the Association. I do this solely from my sense of the extreme injustice done to Mr. Wright, (to whose exertions we are so greatly indebted for the success of the Association,) and of the ingratitude shown to him for having granted to the ‘Journal’ the assistance of his literary talents. I feel that I cannot sufficiently show my strong dissent from the views taken by the Committee of Mr. Wright and his ‘Album.’

“ I remain very faithfully yours,

“ ALBERT CONYNGHAM.”

“ To C. Roach Smith, Esq.,

“ Secretary of the British Archæological Association ”

On the receipt of this communication I convened a special meeting of the Committee, and, in the meantime, when Lord Albert Conyngham came to town, I had a conversation with him; and being anxious, if possible, to save anything like public reference to this matter, I represented to him the injury that must result to the Society by his withdrawal; that inquiries would be necessarily instituted; and that it might then be impossible to restore peace. He said he was ready immediately to return to the Association, provided the Committee would expunge the offensive minute, and retain Mr. Wright as the editor of the ‘Archæological Journal.’ When I mentioned this to the Committee, the majority seemed to think that it was being dictated to by Lord Albert Conyngham, and that he had no right to do so; and they refused to ask him to reconsider his letter, but at once received his resignation. This in fact was an anticipated result. The instant it was known I had intimations that I should be addressed by requisitions from some members of the Committee, and other persons who had taken a deep interest in the affairs of the Association, and I felt it my duty to postpone the Committee meeting that had been fixed for the following Wednesday, giving notice to the members that I had so postponed it, in consequence of a requisition I had received to summon a general meeting of the members of the Association. And now, gentlemen, I have

brought my narrative up to the present time, and have put you in possession of the whole progress of the Institution. I trust I have not distorted anything. If I have, it has been very unintentional on my part; for I would rather speak softly than harshly.

It is now left to you to determine what measures you will adopt under the circumstances in which we have met. You must be aware, from circumstances which have happened, that meetings have still been held by the individuals who have taken this part against Mr. Wright, and that they hold themselves as still constituting the Central Committee. And they hold their committees frequently. Indeed, I have received a summons to attend this Central Committee to-morrow, in connexion with our proceedings of to-night: but I have protested against them, for it is literally these thirteen gentlemen who have put their names forward as acting in defiance of what I consider to be the wish of the general body. It is for you to determine whether you are the British Archæological Association, or whether these thirteen gentlemen are. (*Cheers.*) It is rather a singular fact that even these gentlemen are not all persons who have voted against Mr. Wright. There are four names out of the thirteen who have never voted against Mr. Wright; therefore there are literally only nine gentlemen against him. The others have sided with them, I suppose, on the ground that I have acted illegally in summoning this meeting.

Mr. Deane, who I lament to say has signed this paper, never voted against Mr. Wright; Sir Richard Westmacott never voted against Mr. Wright; Mr. Stapleton never voted against him; and Mr. Bowyer was not a member of the Committee till after these divisions had taken place. These gentlemen therefore cannot be held to express their opinions here about the Album. And I mention this because it is here stated that "gross misrepresentations,"—of which I am quite unaware,—have been intentionally circulated upon this subject.

In order that you may be in possession of everything, I will now give you an outline of what it is intended by some gentlemen to propose to you on this occasion. There is no feeling whatever of personal animosity extending to any individual whatever for what has passed: There is no wish to move for

any vote of censure of any kind or description ; but it is wished to establish this Institution on a firm basis, and to rescue it from threatened destruction : and to do this it is necessary to have certain regulations that will not subject it to any such calamity in future. (*Cheers.*) It is proposed first, that we shall determine the propriety of having a general meeting of the members of the Association annually, in the month of March, in London ; and that at this meeting a statement should be submitted by the General Committee of the progress of the Institution,—what it has done during the past year ; and an account rendered of the receipts and expenditure during that time ; and that an election shall take place for the Officers and the Committee for the ensuing year. (*Cheers.*) That is the first step. The second step will be one, I am sure, in which every one will readily unite ; and that is in the wish to reeal Lord Albert Conyngham to preside over the Association. (*Cheers.*) The third will be, to mark out what shall be the future constitution of the Central Committee, and to elect the same. The next is a matter, I think, of great importance to us, and that is the division of our body of members into two classes. Originally it was intended simply to have a Central Committee, and that all persons should be correspondents ; but the thing branched out in such a manner, and so many persons offered themselves, that the features of the Institution assumed a new character ; and instead of being correspondents at a distance, as had been anticipated, many of the members are residents in the metropolis, and therefore capable of entering fully into the business of the Association. Now we did not in the first instance contemplate asking any members for subscriptions ; but the system of taking voluntary donations is always a bad system, and gives rise to unpleasant feelings. Many persons will not belong to institutions unless there is some established subscription which they pay. Still, the donations to this Association have been received to such an extent, that I can tell you, as your treasurer, that I hold upwards of 200*l.* funds of this Association in my possession. (*Cheers.*) That shows the interest that is felt in the Association : But I need not tell you what interest is felt in it, when I refer you to the names attached to these requisitions.

Well then, it is proposed that our members shall consist of

two classes; the first to be called *Associates* or *Members*, subscribing one guinea or upwards annually, or paying one sum of ten guineas as a life subscription; such members to become entitled to receive a copy of the Journal published by the Society, to attend all general meetings of the Association, and to have a vote at the election of the Officers and Committee. Then the second class,—not to break faith with any individual who has joined the Association under the expectation that no contribution would be required of them; the second class shall remain precisely as they are at this moment,—as correspondents of the Association; that they shall be entitled to attend all general meetings, but not to vote in the election of the Officers and Committee. Now that is an outline of the business. But there is one other point, and that relates to the Journal. That work, as it at present stands, is published on the responsibility, and at the risk, in fact, of the publisher.—Now I think that you will agree with me, that this ought hardly to be the case in any Institution. (*Cheers.*) It was very generously undertaken, in the first instance, by Mr. Parker, of Oxford; but if we divide the classes of members as I have mentioned to you, and if those in the first class are to receive copies of the Journal, it will be practicable and desirable, and it will therefore be proposed to you, that in future the Journal shall be printed and published in London, at the expense of the Association, and that the profits arising from it, after paying the publisher, shall be devoted to the general purposes of the Institution. (*Cheers.*) I hope, Gentlemen, if I have trespassed too long, and occupied too much of your time, it will be the means of shortening other addresses; but I wished you to understand clearly our position and intentions, in order that the question might be fairly and distinctly discussed. (*Great applause.*)

REV. R. H. BARHAM.—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I ought to apologise, perhaps, for trespassing at all upon the Meeting; I am a bad speaker at all times, and to-night I am suffering, as you may perceive, from an affection of the throat. However, I have very little to say: you have heard the luminous exposé which has been made to you by our Chairman and Treasurer, which I think requires very little remark from any-

body who thinks with him, as I do. Although my name is not to the requisition, yet I do fully agree in the propriety of calling this meeting; and without being desirous to impute any motive to any person, I think that conciliatory measures are always the best, and nothing else will tend to keep the Association together. I will not say one single word of censure, or pass any reflection upon anybody. I wish that we should now proceed, if we have been doing wrong, at last to do right. You have heard what has been laid down as the mode of proceeding proposed by the Treasurer. He has been found fault with for calling this meeting, and some have said that he was not justified in doing so,—that it was not his duty to do so, and that this is an appeal to you by a dissatisfied minority. I am not so well versed in matters of business as many of you are, but when it is said that this is an appeal by an unsuccessful and dissatisfied minority, I would ask,—Where else could an appeal come from? (*Hear.*) Be it right or wrong, surely these are constitutional meetings. A step has been taken, which I think has been most judiciously taken—we are justified in assembling on this occasion, and in calling the members together, to lay before the whole body a plain statement of facts. (*Hear, hear.*) Gentlemen, are we to sink or swim? I do not see any error in a step of that sort. You have heard the different resolutions read. The proper officers have very rightly called the body together, and have submitted a general outline of their plan. The requisition has received serious consideration from many who wish well to the Association; and however erroneous might be their views, they are actuated by one common motive for the good of the Association. You have heard the plan just sketched out to you, and in accordance with that, I beg to move a resolution embodying the first principles of any association; without which, indeed, no association could exist for any length of time.

“That an Annual General Meeting be in future held in London, in the month of March, at which a statement of the progress of the Association shall be submitted by the Central Committee, and an account rendered of the Receipts and Expenditure; and that at this Meeting the Officers and Committee for the year be appointed.”

T. CROFTON CROKER, Esq.—As a member of the Central Committee I entirely agree with Mr. Barham, and, agreeing fully in what he has stated to you, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution, because I think it most desirable that all the members of the Association in London should, at a particular period of the year, be called together to be made acquainted with the proceedings of the Association. Our country excursion, as it may be called, is held at a period of the year when it is inconvenient for many of the members to meet, and it is impossible for us all to become acquainted with each other. In fact, the Association cannot go on well without such a resolution being carried as that which I have the pleasure of seconding.

(The resolution was put by the Chairman, and carried unanimously.)

C. R. SMITH, Esq.—The motion which has been placed in my hands to submit to you, is one which, I am very glad to say, will preclude the necessity of my making any remarks upon the lamentable circumstances which have been briefly detailed to you this evening. It will hinder me from appearing as a witness against my colleagues—against gentlemen with most of whom I have been on intimate terms of friendship—with whom, I may say, during the whole course of my connexion with this Association, I have never, on any one point, differed, with the exception of this very unhappy one, which has been the subject of our meeting this evening. It is a motion which I have great pleasure in bringing before you, because it will tend to lessen a debt of gratitude we owe to a nobleman who has conferred upon us most essential benefits. It is in my power, perhaps, more than in the power of many other members of the Committee, to bear testimony to the claims of Lord Albert Conyngham upon our consideration. His business habits, his zeal, his affability, his promptitude in attending to our requests, and his almost constant presence at the meetings of our Association, except when debarred by illness, are qualifications which, seldom found united in one individual, are happily blended in his Lordship.

Gentlemen, we found it difficult at first,—in the infancy of

our Association, we had some little difficulty in selecting as President a gentleman who should unite all the qualifications that are requisite for so important and responsible a situation. The known devotion of Lord Albert Conyngham to antiquarian research, prompted the Central Committee, to propose to place him at its head; and the manner in which the application was responded to showed the zeal and sincerity which his Lordship evinced to aid in any scheme which should appear calculated to redeem our country from the disgrace of being the last among civilized nations in protecting from spoliation and destruction its ancient monuments and antiquities. He did not ask what "great" and "noble" names we had secured to further our project; he did not weigh with timidity or fear the chances of failure: he saw our objects were good, and without further hesitation, he cordially united his influence and assistance to our endeavours, and the history of our consequent progress should dictate how we ought to estimate his Lordship's services. From that time the Association continued to prosper. Winchester was fixed upon for the scene of our first congress. It was considered that Canterbury presented some difficulties, and that we were not sufficiently organized to meet at a city requiring a more extended plan for investigation than we should probably be able to command; and, for these and other reasons, Winchester was the first place selected. But it was owing entirely to the exertions made by Lord Albert Conyngham that, instead of going to Winchester, we fixed upon Canterbury. He wrote to say, that he was convinced his influence was such as would procure us a warm and cordial reception in the city of Canterbury. Upon our acceding to his suggestion, he formed a Local Committee, and made other arrangements; gave up that domestic seclusion,—to which from some unhappy afflictions he had restricted himself for a very long time,—he gave up congenial retirement; conducted and participated in our meetings; and though some of the gentlemen of the Central Committee may not have been present to have witnessed the kindness with which he received us, many of you remember with pleasure and can personally testify how ably and effectually he acquitted himself in the important situation in which he was

placed. (*Cheers.*) His Lordship possesses another qualification besides those of business habits and affability ; such as should be indispensable to every man who enters an Association of this kind,—a great love for the antiquities of our country. I know of no person who is more zealous, more active, and indefatigable, in encouraging and carrying on antiquarian research, than Lord Albert Conyngham.

Gentlemen, are you willing, after hearing the statement that has been so ably made by our Chairman, that a man who has thus endeared himself to us should be allowed to withdraw, not only from the Committee, but from the whole Association? I am sure the response you will make to this motion will prove that you have too high a sense of the services he has rendered us, and of the duty we in return owe him, not to adopt unanimously the sentiment I am about to propose. It is,

“That the most grateful thanks of this Meeting be given to Lord Albert Conyngham, K.C.H., F.S.A., for the zeal and ability he has displayed in the discharge of the duties of President of the Central Committee ; and that he be earnestly solicited to return to the Association, and again preside over the Central Committee.” (*Cheers.*)

SIR JAMES ANNESLEY had felt great pleasure in attending the meeting at Canterbury, and in witnessing the zeal and urbanity of Lord Albert Conyngham. He had much satisfaction in seconding the resolution.—(The motion was put to the meeting by the Chairman, and carried unanimously.)

W. JERDAN, Esq.—My friends who have preceded me in moving resolutions to-night have had a much more agreeable task to perform than myself—a task which I do not think I would have undertaken at all, if I had had any time to consider what I was about to do ; but I really have been so occupied that, after having engaged to bring the next motion before you, I have never had leisure to think of the danger I was incurring, so that I come before you perfectly unprepared to waste your time any more than the good examples that have been set before me by the proposers. I had, indeed, for a few minutes marked the paper that has been sent from the gentlemen calling themselves the Central Committee, with the intention

of making some remarks upon it, as the ground on which I should move the resolution; but the very distinct and clear historical statement made to you by the Chairman has so completely cut every matter of fact from under my feet, and so completely satisfied you with what has been done, and what must be done in consequence of what has happened, that I need trouble you with but a very few remarks indeed, in order to excuse myself for bringing the resolution before you. It will be—that the Central Committee shall consist of a President, Treasurer, two Secretaries, and seventeen other members; and that the number of gentlemen whose names I shall read to you presently shall constitute the same for the ensuing year, with power to fill up any vacancy that may arise during that period. I have said my task was a somewhat invidious one, and it will appear so to you when I ask you to supersede the names of twelve distinguished men—twelve men much respected in public and private—and to remove them from our Committee, and appoint other gentlemen to take their places; and without the occurrence of a great necessity, I think any man ought to have much more confidence than I possess to come forward with such a proposition. But when you look to the condition of the Archæological Society, and see that unless some change is made the Society will be utterly ruined;—that we cannot go on with a ruling power—with a government divided into two parts, such as is the case with this Society at the present moment (*hear, hear*);—one party may assume to be the Central Committee, and the other party may appear to retire, but still they have a duty to perform. We find our governors are divided into two very equal parts, we having, I am happy to say, the main instruments of the war in our own hands. (*Cheers and laughter.*) Another party may style themselves the Central Committee, though two or three of these gentlemen form a very small sub-committee, taking upon themselves to issue papers under the same name. We have in our possession the head of the Society invited to return by you to-night; we have the Treasurer with the sum of money that he has intimated to you; (*hear and laughter*): we have the working Secretary, who has done all the business for the last eighteen months (*cheers*); we have my friend, Mr. Wright, who has done more for the literary

department, and the mediæval antiquity department, than any three men put together: therefore, Gentlemen, we have got great strength—we have got the staff, and we have got the purse. With these we may venture to meet the Central Committee, as they designate themselves, if they persist in making a division in the Society. But I do trust—I think when these matters are fairly represented to those gentlemen—when they take a view of their own position, and get rid of the impression on their minds which has led them to that erroneous position—because the position is a very erroneous one,—they will perceive that this paper they have issued is an untrue appeal; it is full of falsehoods, unwilfully committed by these gentlemen,—they are falsehoods in consequence of the view they have taken, and the diversity of opinions, and persistence in supporting their opinions; and when men get into a controversy they do not see their way clearly. What they have stated is partly untrue; and what is right is not at all applicable to the purpose; they are wrong in every step they have taken, as laid down in this paper. I was going over it a little to make just a remark or two as to their pretensions, and upon what grounds they can found their claims to be the government of this Society—broken up by such means—such ridiculous means! (*Cheers.*) That a great national Association should be risked and thrown to the winds merely because half-a-dozen gentlemen think a publication is set up that may rival a journal in which they ought to have—*can* have—no interest whatever but for the promotion of the science (*cheers*), for which it was published; that they should immediately, when they see another paper of a different kind started to promote the same object they have in view; that they should call it a rival publication, instead of a Siamese twin, which it is—why, it looks like the jealousy of a publisher. —(*Cheers.*) There is not the slightest appearance of men anxious for the promotion of science. But so it is. Long may we live to flourish if this, Gentlemen, is the test of men of pure minds; of men of gentlemanly feelings and habits. But when they take a view of their position,—a position in which they have placed themselves, some from temper, and some from being recruited in a manner not such as one could approve of in the highest degree, because men that attended

the Committee—men that never put their hand to the work in twelve months, and never did anything to help the Society till they saw it succeed and flourishing, and all things established on the most comprehensive and popular foundation that any Society ever took in one year since England was a nation ;—the moment that takes place, these men, who never put forth a hand to help the thing, now become exceedingly zealous for some other object, and excessively jealous of another proceeding, and they meet in double ranks to throw all into entire confusion. Now that is not being friends to the Association ; that is an act of partisanship. (*Hear, hear.*) Three or four men fancy a thing, and set to work to recruit the others to carry out their object ; because, if they had been zealous, they ought to have met at the beginning, and helped the undertaking out to the end, and not have assembled at the last moment, merely for a factious purpose. (*Cheers.*) I have made a little inquiry into this matter, and I have said these are twelve most respectable men ; I know half of them intimately ; they are good men and true, and I have known the rest from reputation. What have they done for the Association that they should take this high part, calling themselves the “great majority ?” What have they done for the Association, and what does this great majority consist of ? Why three men that never attended over an equal number of meetings with men that have done all the work—to my astonishment I have found that these twelve gentlemen, or rather thirteen, for I will give them the baker’s dozen (*laughter*)—have contributed three papers to the Journal, and four guineas to the funds. Now, Gentlemen, only consider that ; it is exactly one quarter of a paper a piece, and seven shillings a head. (*Laughter.*)

Now these are the men that have helped, through our struggle the first year, to establish the Association, and it has been established by their great help in the way I have explained to you. Seeing they have succeeded in this way—I mean the four guineas and the three papers—seeing they have succeeded in establishing it by these means, they are desperately afraid that their papers and their pence will be lost, because Mr. Wright publishes a paper something like their journal ; and lest these gentlemen should run a risk of that kind, and that their terror on the

subject may not prove injurious to their quiet hereafter, it will be my duty to propose some other gentlemen to take their places, with the endeavour that the business of the Society may continue uninterruptedly. At any rate we must all feel that the Society cannot go on in this way, with a Committee of this kind; that it must come to a termination by one party or the other giving in, and every effort has been made to induce these gentlemen to agree with the party with whom I am happy to take my stand. They make an objection to Mr. Wright's doing this: Mr. Wright, with a temper always the same on every occasion, with a humility most becoming in a man so able as he is—for he is a man able, I would almost say, to dictate to them, has gracefully yielded to every inroad. However, I will not break out into my opinion of Mr. Wright: but he, with a modesty most becoming in a man of his high attainments, he gives in in everything: he will even retire from the publishing Committee; he will retire from the other Committee; he will do anything for peace and quiet, only let the Society of which he and Mr. Smith were the founders—let it go on prosperously and quietly. This is the return made to these two gentlemen. I am afraid some of my observations are not quite in the spirit of the excellent letter of the Dean of Hereford. I trust nothing I have said will give personal offence to any of the gentlemen whose names I see here. I am sure, for them, I have a very great esteem, but I think they are wrong in having called themselves, or in thinking themselves, at this moment, the Central Committee.

There is one word that rather dwelt on my mind: it is attributed to two gentlemen whom we are anxious to remove from our direction; I do not know who is to have the honour of it, but it is either Mr. Hawkins or Dr. Bromet, but I should like them to disown it. They have talked in society of the “mountebanking” at Canterbury. Now, gentlemen, that is a very harsh word, a very unjust one; for the “mountebanking” expedition to Canterbury did more to establish the Archæological Association than any other meetings of any one society that ever met. (*Cheers.*) And when one looks to the names and the numbers there, when we reflect that there were fifty or sixty men of high antiquarian reputation, men distinguished not only in this

country but on the continent of Europe ; when you see the names of Lord Strangford, the Bishop of Oxford, the Dean of Hereford, Dr. Spry, and Archdeacon Burney, and other men of that class—one would ask these twelve gentlemen, really would they have been ashamed to have been vagabondizing with this party ? (*Cheers and laughter.*) I was prevented by illness from being one of the party, but I should have been one of the proudest men in the world to have been a vagabond on that occasion. As the twelve members who sent forward this paper seemed to determine either to assume the whole authority of the Association as already constituted, or to have an association of their own, I think it is incumbent on us to set such an example of an association as will eventuate in making them rank second in the composition of an Archæological Society. (*Hear.*) Here we have 162 names, such as have been read to you, all collected within eight or ten days, and they are a guarantee sufficient that there are a large number of persons who will adhere to the constitution adopted here, and I am sure that nine tenths of the members of the Association will at once adhere to the Society as formed on this occasion. I therefore (begging pardon for this somewhat rambling address) beg to move the resolution I hold in my hand, and also to propose that this Committee be formed, to consist of the following gentlemen :

President—Lord Albert Denison Conyngham, K.C.H., F.S.A.

Treasurer—Thomas Joseph Pettigrew, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A.

Secretaries— { Thomas Crofton Croker, Esq., F.S.A., M.R.I.A.
 { Charles Roach Smith, Esq., F.S.A.

Committee.

Thomas Amyot, Esq., F.R.S., Treasurer S.A.	Joseph Gwilt, Esq., F.S.A.
Sir James Annesley, F.R.S., F.S.A.	The very Rev. the Dean of Hereford, F.R.S., F.S.A.
The Rev. R. Harris Barham, M.A.	Thomas William King, Esq., F.S.A., Rouge Dragon.
John Barrow, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A.	R. Monckton Milnes, Esq., M.P.
Captain Beaufort, R.N., F.R.S.	J. Robinson Planché, Esq., F.S.A.
Sir William Betham, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., Ulster King at Arms.	J. Emmerson Tennent, Esq., M.P.
George Richard Corner, Esq., F.S.A.	John Green Waller, Esq.
Sir Henry Ellis, K.H., F.R.S., Secretary S.A.	Sir Gardner Wilkinson, M.A., F.R.S.
	Thomas Wright, Esq., F.S.A.

I trust I may conclude by saying that I put even those eminent names, which I have proposed to you, not in rivalry with the others, but in juxta-position, as friends to a noble pursuit, the unfortunate differences of opinion that have taken place having caused the necessity of removing these twelve gentlemen as soon as possible, that the Association may go on in harmony; and the time, I trust, is not very far distant when we may hail the return of several of them to the ranks from which I now move them. (*Applause.*)

THOMAS LOTT, Esq.—After the very eloquent address you have just heard, I will not occupy your time at any length. I cordially agree in the resolution which has been proposed to you, having experienced much pleasure in being one of the associated vagabonds. I have felt equal regret that any dissensions should have disturbed our peace, or at all turned aside the Society from its legitimate objects. I cannot, in adverting to the cause of it, but concur in the sentiments expressed by Lord Albert Conyngham in regard to the treatment of Mr. Wright. As one of the parents of this institution, I consider the indignities he has met with as a sort of moral parricide. (*Hear.*) For my part, I would say to the Society, *esto perpetua*. I hope this resuscitation of the Society, and the more mutual plan for carrying it on will eventuate in its ultimate prosperity.

(The Chairman put the resolution to the meeting, which was carried, there being only five dissentients.)

The CHAIRMAN.—I beg to remind you that we are no longer, by the resolution that has just passed, a self-elected Committee (*hear*); and having, in accordance with the spirit of the times, an opportunity of annual elections, I have no doubt of bringing back to the bosom of the parent Society those gentlemen with whom these differences have unfortunately originated. (*Cheers.*)

A. H. BURKITT, Esq.—I take great responsibility to myself in moving the next resolution. I think you will agree with me that it is impossible, from the highest to the lowest, to go on without money, particularly with associations connected with antiquities, as well as other matters. To carry on the Society

with anything like spirit, money must be forthcoming. I am sure you have felt dissatisfied, Gentlemen, at seeing your names only attached to the Journal, and that you should have considered that a qualification for a member without any fixed contribution. I beg to move this resolution :

“That the members of the Association be divided into two classes, Associates and Correspondents. That the Associates consist of Subscribers of one Guinea or upwards per annum, or of a Life Subscription of Ten Guineas ; by which they will be entitled to receive a copy of the Society’s Journal, to attend all General Meetings, and to vote at the election of Officers and Committee. That of the Correspondents no contribution be required ; that they be entitled to attend all General Meetings, but not to vote at the election of Officers and Committee.”

JOHN BRENT, Jun., Esq., in seconding the resolution, said,—I have just arrived from Canterbury, and only a few minutes after entering the room our worthy Chairman asked me to second a resolution ; and I am sure he would not have imposed on my indiscretion had I not very readily agreed to second it. I confess that, as an inhabitant of Canterbury, my first acquaintance with this Society was at that magnificent and most transcendent meeting held on that occasion ; and, however it may answer the purpose of some persons to designate it as “mountebanking,” I speak to you honestly and fairly when I say that I believe that that meeting has been productive of the greatest use. (*Cheers.*) You may not know the effect it has produced ; you may not know the effects ; but the effects of the Society are more inwardly felt than openly manifested. I know, in Canterbury, that a Literary Society has been formed since your departure, in consequence of the impulse created by the proceedings of that memorable week. Among many of the very ancient buildings that old city contains, there remain some old houses of the time of Elizabeth, which would have been renovated in a most barbarous style but for the occurrence of your meeting ; and now they have been renovated in the precise manner, or, as near as possible, to the style in which those houses were originally built. There has been also created in that town a desire for the formation of another and a young society, in which the life blood of the old society is mingling in its veins, though they

are not in a position to carry out your views to any great extent. I look back with the greatest pleasure to the advent of this Society in Canterbury. As regards the proceedings that have taken place to-day, I can assure you that when the members at Canterbury received the account of the expulsion of Mr. Wright—for there is no use in mincing the matter now, for it amounts to that; for resolutions worded in the manner in which they were worded, and acting on the high and sensitive feelings of a man of honour, they did amount to an expulsion—it was received with the utmost surprise. But from the lucid statements your Chairman has made, when I state to them what has occurred, and when they read in the public prints the proceedings of this meeting, the feeling of surprise will give way to one of astonishment.

I most cordially second the resolution, and I trust that this Society will be the means of renovating the glories of England, and restoring her ancient edifices to something like their pristine grandeur; that we may thereby be the means of disseminating a feeling of good taste from one end of the kingdom to the other: and that we may no longer find the magnificent monuments erected by our forefathers desecrated as they have been; that our country hereafter may evince a legitimate taste for the fine arts, and far surpass Italy in her literary attainments, and in her attachment to her noblest institutions. (*Cheers.*)

(The Chairman having put the resolution to the meeting, it was unanimously adopted.)

S. C. HALL, Esq., in proposing the next resolution, said:—I think you will agree with me, by a very large majority, that if we may not date the birth of this Society to this meeting, we may date its prosperity. Hitherto there has been no bond of union between the Central Committee and the Society at large: no chord of sympathy at all awakened;—in fact, the great majority of us have been members of a society of which we scarcely knew anything; in which we never took any interest, because we were never called upon to use any active means for its support. We now have adopted a series of resolutions to put the Society on a substantial footing. We now know precisely what it is

that we are prepared to give our support to ; to extend its usefulness, and to give it that utility it has hitherto failed to accomplish. We have done that now which we were taunted by our opponents for not having done long ago ; we have founded a Society on a substantial footing , we have appointed a Committee, and have formed a resolution to subscribe a certain sum of money, without which we never could expect to be extensively and practically useful. We are now to adopt a resolution, which I am about to propose to you, which will extend the utility of a Journal, which, be it now established or be it established hereafter, must in a very great degree assist in advancing the objects the Society has in view. And these things we have learned from our opponents. I am now sure, by what we have done, we shall secure the best and truest interests of society, and send abroad to all parts of the kingdom an earnest wish to support us in the great work we are about to do, so that at no very distant time we may carry out our plan for the restoration of the ancient monuments still in Europe. The present proposition, which I have great pleasure in making, is,

“That the Journal of the Society be printed and published in London, at the expense of the Association, and that the profits arising from the same be devoted to the purposes of the Institution.”

I trust and believe that in a great degree the conduct of that Journal will be confided to the hands of a gentleman who has already proved his capacity for its conduct, and who has the confidence of every person really and truly interested in the welfare of this Society. I am sure that Mr. Wright, if he does undertake this Journal, will make it really practically useful, and give an energy to it, and make the Institution a good to society by promoting the objects we all have so much at heart ; and he will be also seconded in his efforts by one who has also very ably seconded him already, and he is always pleased to acknowledge that, in the conduct of the Journal, he has received great support in his labours from one who stands so high in his profession—I mean Mr. Fairholt, without whose assistance it would be comparatively useless. Under the auspices of Mr. Wright and Mr. Fairholt, I am sure that whatever Journal the Society may consider itself bound to adopt, the Society will support a Journal that will flourish, and extend the objects the Society have in view. (*Cheers.*)

Dr. LEE.—I have very great pleasure in seconding the motion. I heard with very deep concern that there were some dissensions among the members of the Society; at the same time I bear my testimony to the very temperate manner in which the different observations have been made on this subject. I hope in the course of time some conciliatory measures will take place, and that we may be joined by those whom we have thought it necessary on this occasion to remove from our councils.

(The motion having been put, was carried unanimously.)

ARTHUR ASHPITAL, Esq.—then moved—

“That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to the Treasurer, for the great services he has rendered the Association from its formation, and particularly for his attention to the wishes of a large body of its members, by convening the present General Meeting, which the members confidently hope and trust will tend to the proper establishment and perpetuity of the Institution.”

Dr. COPLAND bore testimony to the zeal of his friend the Treasurer, and heartily seconded the resolution.

(Sir JAMES ANNESLEY, who had taken the chair on its being vacated by the Treasurer, put the motion, and it was carried unanimously.)

T. J. PETTIGREW, Esq.—I am very deeply grateful to you for this kind mark of your respect and attention. I need scarcely say how grateful it is to my feelings to find that the task we have been called upon to perform, under the peculiar circumstances which I have explained, should have met with your approbation. I trust now we have an Institution on a fair basis, and founded on liberal principles, inviting the co-operation of every one who is a member of the Association, not confining our exertions to the few, but extending them to the many—I trust the Society may prosper, and that when we meet next March, we may have a good account to render of the restoration of amity amongst us.

The meeting then separated.











